

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
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-----091534Z 002642 /53

O R 091435Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5845  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

OTTAWA FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FOR FRANCIS, U.N. OPERATIONS  
DIVISION

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SREF, ZA, WA  
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: CONDITION OF SWAPO DISSIDENTS IN ZAMBIA

ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE ASKED TO PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE  
FROM THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION LUSAKA TO CANADIAN MISSIONS  
AND MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:

QUOTE:

REF: OURTELS 0917 JUN8, 0922 JUN9

SUB/SUJ: NAMIBIA: CONDITION OF SWAPO DISSIDENTS IN ZAMBIA  
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IN APPARENT ANTICIPATION THAT ATTN WOULD BE FOCUSED ON SWAPO  
DISSIDENTS IN ZAMBIA AS RESULT OF CPTWN TALKS, ZAMBIAN GOVT  
HAS ACTED QUICKLY TO DEAL WITH LARGE GROUP OF SWAPO DISSIDENTS  
DETAINED FOR LAST YEAR OR SO AT MBROMA CAMP NEAR KABWE.  
FOLLOWING IS REPORT BASED ON OUR DISCUSSION JUNS WITH UNHCR  
REP OPDAHL IN LSAKA. IN MAY20 MTG, MIN OF HOME AFFAIRS,  
MILNER, HAD INDICATED TO OPDAHL THAT BURDEN ON ZAMBIA

GOVT OF TAKING CARE OF SWAPO DETAINEES WAS BECOMING TOO HEAVY AND THAT HE PLANNED TO DECLARE THEM AS REFUGEES AND ASK FOR UNHCR ASSISTANCE. AT TIME HE SPOKE OF ALL 800 PLUS DETAINEES AND INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE KEPT AT THEIR LOCATION AT THE MBROMA CAMP, RATHER THAN FOR EXAMPLE BEING MOVED TO UNHCR SETTLEMENT AT MEHEBA IN NORTH. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, SITUATION DEVELOPED AS FOLLOWS: SOME 200 OF DETAINEES HAVE NOW BEEN DECLARED QUOTE REFUGEES UNQUOTE AND HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO MEHEBA FOR RESETTLEMENT. ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSFER HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICE OF REFUGEE COMMISSIONER (WHO IS NOW ZIMBA FORMER DEPUTY REP AT ZAMBIAN PERMISNY) IN HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY. UNHCR OFFICE REP HAS VISITED GROUP AND OFFICE IS PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTARY ASSISTANCE TO MEHEBA TO FACILITATE RESETTLEMENT.

2. ACCORDING TO NAMIBIANS SENT TO MEHEBA TOTAL NUMBERS AT MBROMA WERE IN NEIGHBOURHOOD OF 1200. ACCORDING TO ZAMBIAN GOVT (SUBSTANTIATED BY MEHEBA GROUP) SOME 300-400 DETAINEES HAVE BEEN QUOTE RE-EDUCATED UNQUOTE AND REINTEGRATED INTO SWAPO. REMAINDER IE APPROX 600 ARE UNDERGOING QUOTE REHABILITATION UNQUOTE WITH A VIEW TO REINTEGRATING INTO SWAPO.

3. THUS ZAMBIA COULD MAKE CLAIM AS REQUIRED THAT THERE ARE NO/NO LONGER ANY SWAPO DISSIDENTS QUOTE IN DETENTION UNQUOTE. OPDAHL WAS NOT/NOT AWARE OF SWAPO'S ROLE OR POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS. IN HIS VIEW, HOWEVER, IF IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR THE 200 TO OPT FOR QUOTE REFUGEE UNQUOTE STATUS AND RESETTLEMENT AT MEHEBA THEN CONFIDENTIAL

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IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE FOR THE OTHERS TO DO LIKEWISE. QUESTION REMAINS HOWEVER WHETHER GROUP OF 200 WILL BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES AT MEHEBA OR WHETHER THERE WILL BE SUBSEQUENT PRESSURE FOR AN ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENT EG RETURN TO NAMIBIA WHICH FOR MOMENT ZAMBIA (SWAPO) ARE UNLIKELY TO ALLOW.

4. RELATED QUESTION OF COURSE IS SITUATION OF SWAPO DISSIDENTS IN TANZANIA. DETAINEES THERE (ESPECIALLY SHIPANGA) ARE GREATER THREAT TO SWAPO LEADERSHIP AND ABOVE TYPE ARRANGEMENTS MUCH LESS FEASIBLE. MOORE.

END QUOTE.

EMBASSY LUSAKA COMMEPO ON ABOVE MESSAGE:

DESPITE THE RECLASSIFICATION OF 200 MBROMA DETAINEES AS REFUGEES (UNDoubtedly AN IMPROVEMENT) IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AS LONG AS 600 ARE STILL BEING DETAINED FOR "REHABILITATION"

SWAPO CAN STILTSBE ACCUSED OF HOLDING POLITICAL PRISONERS.  
WE DOUBT THAT THE EXPLANATION ADVANCED BY THE GRZ AND "REFUGEE"  
SWAPO DISSIDENTS FOR THE 300-400 DECLINE IN THE MBRROMA CAMP  
POPULATION TELLS THE WHOLE STORY. AS HAS BEEN REPORTED PREVIOUSLY  
(LUSAKA 0940), SOME HAD ESCAPED THE CAMP, A FEW REPORTEDLY  
HAD BEEN SHOT AND SOME HAD DIED DUE TO CONDITIONS IN THE CAMP.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** SREF, ZA, WA, CA, SWAPO  
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**Review Markings:**  
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